a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing States and 15 major corn (maize) growing States for increasing the production and productivity of pulses and maize respectively. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for various critical inputs to the farmers through State Departments of Agriculture. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Departments of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

To increase the production and productivity of cereal crops including barley, bajra etc., the following crop production oriented programmes are implemented under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture:—

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice);

(ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat); and

(iii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for seeds, propagation of improved technology, Integrated pest management, training of farmers including women, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, etc.

All the schemes/programmes mentioned above are intended to enhance productivity of these crops.

Krishi Vikas Kendras in Bihar and Maharashtra

4000. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vikas Kendras working in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) whether Governments of respective States have sent proposals for setting up of more Krishi Vikas Kendra in their States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There are 70 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) sanctioned in Bihar and Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Out of 38 rural districts in Bihar, 37 KVKs have been sanctioned. The process of setting up of a KVK in Arwal district has also been initiated.

All the 33 rural districts in Maharashtra have been covered with KVK. There is no proposal for setting up of more KVK in the State.

Import of pulses

4001. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import pulses in the near future to improve the supply and price position for consumers in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity proposed to be imported and the country from where to be imported with the CIF, thereof at the port of landing; and

(c) whether Government have decided the mechanism for their distribution to the consumers and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken a decision allowing the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), Mineral &Metals Trading Corporation Ltd. PEC Ltd. and State Trading Corporation (STC) to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses such as Urad, Tur, Moong, Gram and Yellow peas. The latest details of import of pulses by these four agencies are given in the Statement (*See* below). The imported pulses will be sold by these agencies through public tenders to augment availability in the domestic market.